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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/840,178	05/06/2004	Roy H. Hammerstedt	2034-044072	7502

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EXAMINER

REDDING, DAVID A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1744

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/840,178	Applicant(s) HAMMERSTEDT ET AL.	
	Examiner David A. Redding	Art Unit 1744	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-27 and 29-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 39-47 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-27, 29-31 and 36-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 32-35 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed 3/3/06. Currently, claims 20-27, 29-47 are pending, with claims 39-47 newly added.

Newly submitted claims 39-47 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: Claims 39 thru 47 are directed to a membrane which have uses other than in combination with a biosensor, such as a cell culturing membrane.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 39-47 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Objections

Claims 22-25 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form since they do not include all the limitations of the independent claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claims 22-25 do not include the limitation of having "at least one pore allowing fluid communication between the interior and exterior of the sensor compartment".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating

obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 20-27,29,30,36,37,38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious in view of USP 6,315,767 B1 (Dumont et al.) and USP 5,164,796 ('796).

Dumont et al. disclose a cell storage and maintenance device which comprises a biosensor (30), a separation barrier consisting of a gated pore membrane (18) and a sensor compartment located between the wall (20) of the container and the membrane (18). Dumont et al. disclose that the gated pore membrane used in the device is fully disclosed in U.S. patent 5,261,870 (Hammerstedt et al.) which discloses that the membrane pores are occluded with a cellulosic material. Dumont et al. disclose the gated pore to be occluded by an erodable substance sensitive to pH or solvent concentration (see "Summary" section).

Art Unit: 1744

This embodiment is considered to read on the limitations of claims 22-25. Dumont et al. also discloses that the membrane (18) itself may be composed of a material responsive to the selected characteristic of the blood product, such that the unfilled pores themselves are responsive to the selected characteristic, having a relatively smaller pore size at a first value of the selected characteristic, i.e. pH, and a relatively larger pore size at a second value of the selected characteristic. This embodiment is considered to read on the "at least one pore allowing fluid communication between the interior and exterior of the sensor compartment" claim limitation. Further, Dumont et al. disclose that the sensor shows a visually detectable change in the container (ol.4, lines 31-50). An observer using visual observation of the change in sensor appearance is considered to constitute "remote external sensing". Also, blood bags (col.3, lines 57-67) are considered to be aseptic. Dumont et al. discloses the use of pH or bacterial indicators, but is silent as to fluorescent-receptor complex. The '796 patent discloses the use of fluorescent-receptor complex pH indicators bound to a solid support for fluorescent detection of changes in pH as an indication of the presence of microorganisms in blood (col.5, lines 1-50). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use the fluorescent pH indicator of the '796 patent in view of its known use to detect the presence of microorganisms in blood cultures.

Claims 20-26,29,31,36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious in view of USP 6,315,767 B1 (Dumont et al.) and USP 6,210,910 (Walt et al.)

Dumont et al. disclose a cell storage and maintenance device which comprises a biosensor (30), a separation barrier consisting of a gated pore membrane (18) and a sensor compartment located between the wall (20) of the container and the membrane (18). Dumont et al. disclose that the gated pore membrane used in the device is fully disclosed in U.S. patent 5,261,870 (Hammerstedt et al.) which discloses that the membrane pores are occluded with a cellulosic material. Dumont et al. disclose the gated pore to be occluded by an erodable substance sensitive to pH or solvent concentration (see "Summary" section). This embodiment is considered to read on the limitations of claims 22-25. Dumont et al. also discloses that the membrane (18) itself may be composed of a material responsive to the selected characteristic of the blood product, such that the unfilled pores themselves are responsive to the selected characteristic, having a relatively smaller pore size at a first value of the selected characteristic, i.e. pH, and a relatively larger pore size at a second value of the selected characteristic. This embodiment is considered to read on the "at least one pore allowing fluid communication between the interior and exterior of the sensor compartment" claim limitation. Further, Dumont et al. disclose that the sensor shows a visually detectable change in the container (ol.4, lines 31-50). An observer using visual observation of the change in sensor appearance is considered to constitute "remote external sensing". Also, blood bags (col.3, lines 57-67) are considered to be aseptic.

Art Unit: 1744

Dumont et al. discloses the use of pH or bacterial indicators, but is silent as to fluorochrome–receptor complex. The Walt et al. patent discloses the use of fluorochrome-receptor complexes for determining cell viability (col.13, line 50 thru col.14, line 27).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use the fluorochrome cell viability indicator of the Walt et al. patent in view of its known use to detect cell viability in blood cultures.

Response to Arguments

The objection to the specification and rejections of claims 20,21,26,27,29-38 under 35 U.S.C. paragraph 112, first paragraph, have been withdrawn in view of applicants arguments.

Applicant's arguments concerning the objections of claims 22-25 as being improperly dependent are not persuasive. Claim 20 specifies that "at least one pore allowing fluid communication between the interior and exterior of the sensor compartment". The "at least one pore" must be **open**. Claims 22-25 specify that "the at least one pore is **occluded** with a responsive material." The "**at least one pore**" cannot simultaneously be open and occluded. Therefore the rejection stands.

Regarding the prior art rejections in view of USP 6,315,767 B1 (Dumont et al.), applicant's arguments are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Dumont fails to teach or suggest that the membrane may be composed of a material responsive to a selective characteristic of the blood product, such that the unfilled pores themselves are responsive to the selected characteristics. However, these limitations are not claimed.

Art Unit: 1744

Even if claimed, applicant is incorrect in the assertion that Dumont does not teach such a membrane. Applicant's attention is directed to column 2, lines 65 to column 3 line 4.

Applicants remaining arguments are directed to what the references do not teach, **individually**.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 32-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A. Redding whose telephone number is 571-272-1276. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 6:00 - 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gladys Corcoran-Piazza can be reached on 571-272-1224. The fax phone

Art Unit: 1744

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David A Redding
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1744

DAR